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REVIEWS.

COMPARATIVE ANATOMY AND MEDICAL ZOÖLOGY.*—As its title purports, so do we find its contents. The "Outlines" are carefully drawn and well filled out, and the student of comparative anatomy will find it a hand-book that will be convenient at all times. It is gratifying to find so rational a view of classification as the author here presents. He seems to appreciate fully the various subdivisions among animals, though we disagree with him in his adopting Leuckart's class *Cœlenterata*. It seems to us that Agassiz has never made a clearer point than in his demonstrations of the class value of Polyyps and Acalephs, and he (Agassiz) excuses the readiness with which German naturalists acquiesce in Leuckart's bringing together these two classes under the above title, from the fact that their opportunities for studying the various members of the two classes are limited. Perhaps the same apology might be made for Dr. Allen! Under such headings as Skeleton, Articulation, Teeth, Digestive System, etc., he passes in each case from the lowest to the highest animals, mentioning briefly the characters under discussion possessed by both. Thus, for example, under Kidneys, we have: "*Myriapoda*,—Kidney composed of long convoluted tubes," etc. "*Arachnida*, several cœca empty into intestinal canal," etc.

In a work of this character requiring the collation of so many facts, it would not be surprising to find a few mistakes or oversights, and we point out for correction those that have already attracted our attention. He says that in Polyzoa no nervous system has with certainty been detected. A nervous ganglion has been recognized by Fritz Müller among the marine forms, and by Allman, Dr. Nitché, Mr. Hyatt, and others, among the fresh-water species. Two branches from this ganglion have been figured. It is stated that no organ among the Invertebrata has been definitely assigned to the functions of smelling. Moquin Tandon has quite conclusively shown, we think, that in the minute nerve termini, at the extremity of the upper tentacles of land inoperculate pulmonates is seated the sense of smell. It is stated also (evidently a slip of the pen) that fresh-water snails carry their eyes at the tip of the tentacles, whereas it is just the reverse, and that marine species carry their eyes at the outer base of the tentacles; this is true with several important exceptions. The statement is made that the eyes of *Natica* and *Bulla* are conspicuous, while they are quite inconspicuous or wanting. It is stated that among the lowest animals the eye and ear resemble each other so closely that it is difficult to distinguish them apart, but that the presence of the vibrating otoliths will afford a distinction. Would not another reason be found in the external position of one, and the internal position of the other?

*Outlines of Comparative Anatomy and Medical Zoölogy. By Harrison Allen, M. D. J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1868. pp. 190, 8vo.

At the end of the book there is a table of classification, including three hundred and eight genera mentioned in the pages. This number does not include several names inadvertently tabulated with them, which apply only to the larval condition of animals. We say inadvertently, since the matter is correctly given in the preceding pages. We again cordially commend this book as one possessing a vast amount of matter, concisely stated, and clearly arranged, and when one considers the unusually large space allotted to the invertebrate animals, remarkably free from errors.

ENTOMOLOGIST'S ANNUAL FOR 1868.—It is proposed, should sufficient encouragement be given, to publish a Year Book of Progress in American Entomology, to be edited by Dr. A. S. Packard, jr. Dr. J. L. LeConte will contribute a chapter on the Coleoptera; Mr. S. H. Scudder chapters on the Butterflies and Orthoptera; Baron R. Osten Sacken a chapter on the Diptera; Mr. P. R. Uhler a chapter on the Hemiptera and Neuroptera; and the Editor expects to receive aid from other entomologists. It is hoped it will prove a useful hand-book to every one interested in the study of insects. It will be published in 12mo size in the spring of 1869. An edition of five hundred will be printed, provided three hundred names can be secured. Will all entomologists desirous of aiding in the publication of such an annual, send in their subscriptions in advance, that the means of publishing such a useful book be afforded at the outset? Subscriptions, *seventy-five cents* a copy, received by W. S. West, Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass.

Will our scientific and secular exchanges please copy this prospectus, and urge their readers to encourage the undertaking?

VOYAGE THROUGH THE GRAND CANON OF COLORADO.—An extract from the Transactions of the St. Louis Academy of Natural Science, Vol. II, pp. 449-453, contains a report by C. C. Parry, Assistant Geologist to J. D. Parry, President of the Eastern Division of the Union Pacific Railroad, giving a detailed account of the extraordinary voyage of James White of Callville, through the Grand Cañon. It seems that a party of three, of which he was one, was attacked by Indians on the banks of Grand River. Two of them escaped, built a raft and embarked upon it, preferring to risk the chance of reaching the settlements by way of the river, than the certain destruction of a retreat by land. About thirty miles beyond they passed the mouth of Green River, and were in the Colorado proper. Henceforth their way lay through the sullen and hitherto untraversed depths of the Grand Cañon, whose precipices gradually rise above the narrowing stream a little below the junction. The mouth of the San Juan was passed, some forty miles farther on, without accident, but on the fourth day out they encountered the first rapids. These swept off Henry Strole, and all the provisions, leaving White to pursue the voyage alone. One hundred and eighty miles farther on he passed the mouth of the Colorado Chiquito, after having passed through a series of "fearful" rapids, from which his escape upon a raft threatening every moment to come to pieces, was hardly less than miraculous.